

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for managing contract labor activities, comprising:
 - a communication interface adapted to be coupled to a communication
5 network, the communication interface operable to receive information from and send
information to the communication network;
 - a memory coupled to the communication interface, the memory operable to
store information received through the communication interface; and
 - a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to receive a
10 contract labor request, receive a list of vendors associated with the contract labor
request, associate the list with the contract labor request, and generate a message
containing information in the contract labor request for at least one of the vendors.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the contract labor request includes an
15 indication of the skills applicable to the requested labor and an indication of the size
of the project.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to
determine an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request, generate a message
20 requesting approval of the contract labor request, and receive approval.
4. The system of Claim 3, wherein determining an estimate of the cost for
the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data regarding
similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.
- 25 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein receiving a contract labor request
includes comparing the anticipated amount of hours to be worked against the period
of employment to determine whether overtime is required.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors; and
generate a message containing at least part of the resume information.

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7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generate a message identifying the rejected resumes.

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8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire; and
generate a message containing a purchase order for the services of the selected
candidate.

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9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive a compensation request;
generate a message containing information from the compensation request;
receive a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
generate a second message containing information from the compensation

20 request.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive an invoice;
associate the invoice with a purchase order;
25 determine whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation
request; and
generate a message regarding payment of the invoice if it is associated with an
approved compensation request.

11. A method for managing contract labor activities, comprising:
receiving a contract labor request through a communication interface;
receiving a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request through
the communication interface;
5 associating the list with the contract labor request; and
generating a message containing information in the contract labor request for
at least one of the vendors.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the contract labor request includes
10 an indication of the skills applicable to the requested labor and an indication of the
size of the project.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
determining an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request;
15 generating a message requesting approval of the contract labor request; and
receiving approval.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein determining an estimate of the cost
for the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data
20 regarding similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein receiving a contract labor request
includes comparing the anticipated amount of hours to be worked against the period
of employment to determine whether overtime is required.

16. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors; and
generating a message containing at least part of the resume information.

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17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising:
receiving verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generating a message identifying the rejected resumes.

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18. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire;
and
generating a message containing a purchase order for the services of the
selected candidate.

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19. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving a compensation request;
generating a message containing information from the compensation request;
receiving a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
generating a second message containing information from the compensation
request.

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20. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving an invoice;
associating the invoice with a purchase order;
determining whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation
request; and
generating a message regarding payment of the invoice if it is associated with
an approved compensation request.

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21. A set of logic encoded in a computer readable readable medium, the set of logic operable to:

receive a contract labor request;

receive a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request;

5 associate the list with the contract labor request;

generate a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor request;

receive an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the vendors; and

10 generate a message containing information in the contract labor request.

22. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the contract labor request includes an indication of the skills applicable to the requested labor and an indication of the size of the project.

15 23. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request;

generate a message requesting approval of the contract labor request; and

receive approval.

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24. The logic of Claim 23, wherein determining an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data regarding similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.

25 25. The logic of Claim 21, wherein receiving a contract labor request includes comparing the anticipated amount of hours to be worked against the period of employment to determine whether overtime is required.

26. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors; and
generate a message containing at least part of the resume information.

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27. The logic of Claim 26, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generate a message identifying the rejected resumes.

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28. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire; and
generate a message containing a purchase order for the services of the selected
candidate.

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29. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive a compensation request;
generate a message containing information from the compensation request;
receive a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
generate a second message containing information from the compensation

20 request.

30. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive an invoice;
associate the invoice with a purchase order;

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determine whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation
request; and
generate a message containing regarding payment of the invoice if it is
associated with an approved compensation request.

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31. A system for managing contract labor activities, comprising:

a communication interface adapted to be coupled to a communication network, the communication interface operable to receive information from and send information to the communication network;

5 a memory coupled to the communication interface, the memory operable to store information received through the communication interface, the memory further operable to store purchase orders for contract labor requests; and

10 a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to receive a compensation request, associate the compensation request with a purchase order, generate a message containing information from the compensation request, receive a message indicating that the compensation request is approved, and generate a second message containing information from the compensation request.

15 32. The system of Claim 31, wherein the compensation request is a time sheet.

20 33. The system of Claim 31, wherein the processor is further operable to receive an invoice associated with the compensation request, associate the invoice with the purchase order, determine whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation request, and generate a message regarding payment of the invoice if it is associated with an approved compensation request.

25 34. The system of Claim 31, wherein the processor is further operable to receive a contract labor request and to determine an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request.

30 35. The system of Claim 34, wherein determining an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data regarding similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.

36. The system of Claim 34, wherein the processor is further operable to receive a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request, generate a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor request, receive an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the vendors, and generate a message
5 containing information in the contract labor request.

37. The system of Claim 34, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors;
10 generate a message containing at least part of the resume information;
receive verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generate a message identifying the rejected resumes.

38. The system of Claim 34, wherein the processor is further operable to:
15 receive information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire; and
generate a message containing a purchase order for the services of the
candidate.

39. A method for managing contract labor activities, comprising:
storing purchase orders for contract labor requests in a memory;
receiving a compensation request through a communication interface;
associating the compensation request with a purchase order;
5 generating a message containing information from the compensation request;
receiving a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
generating a second message containing information from the compensation
request.
- 10 40. The method of Claim 39, wherein the compensation request is a time
sheet.
41. The method of Claim 39, further comprising:
receiving an invoice associated with the compensation request;
15 associating the invoice with the purchase order;
determining whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation
request; and
generating a message regarding payment of the invoice if it is associated with
an approved compensation request.
- 20 42. The method of Claim 39, further comprising:
receiving a contract labor request; and
determining an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request.
- 25 43. The method of Claim 42, wherein determining an estimate of the cost
for the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data
regarding similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.

44. The method of Claim 42, further comprising:
receiving a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request;
generating a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor
request;

5 receiving an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the
vendors; and
generating a message containing information in the contract labor request.

45. The method of Claim 42, further comprising:
10 receiving resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors;
generating a message containing at least part of the resume information;
receiving verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generating a message identifying the rejected resumes.

15 46. The method of Claim 42, further comprising:
receiving information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire;
and
generating a message containing a purchase order for the services of the
20 candidate.

47. A set of logic encoded in a computer readable medium, the logic operable to:

- receive a compensation request;
- associate the compensation request with a purchase order;
- 5 generate a message containing information from the compensation request;
- receive a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
- generate a second message containing information from the compensation request.

10 48. The logic of Claim 47, wherein the compensation request is a time sheet.

- 49. The logic of Claim 47, wherein the logic is further operable to:
 - receive an invoice associated with the compensation request;
 - 15 associate the invoice with the purchase order;
 - determine whether the invoice is associated with an approved compensation request; and
 - generate a message regarding payment of the invoice if it is associated with an approved compensation request.

20 50. The logic of Claim 47, wherein the logic is further operable to:

- receive a contract labor request; and
- determine an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request.

25 51. The logic of Claim 50, wherein determining an estimate of the cost for the contract labor request comprises determining a labor rate based on data regarding similar labor in the geographic region where the labor is to be performed.

52. The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request;
generate a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor
request;

- 5 receive an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the
vendors; and
generate a message containing information in the contract labor request.

53. The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is further operable to:
10 receive resume information regarding candidates from at least one of the
associated vendors;
generate a message containing at least part of the resume information;
receive verification that some of the resumes have been rejected; and
generate a message identifying the rejected resumes.

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54. The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire; and
generate a message containing a purchase order for the services of the
candidate.

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55. A system for managing contract labor activities, comprising:

a communication interface adapted to be coupled to a communication network, the communication interface operable to receive information from and send information to the communication network;

5 a memory coupled to the communication interface, the memory operable to store information received through the communication interface, the memory further operable to store purchase orders for contract labor requests; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to receive a contract labor request, receive a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request, associate the list with the contract labor request, generate a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor request, receive an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the vendors, generate a message containing information in the contract labor request, receive information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire, generate a message containing a purchase order
10 for the services of the selected candidate, receive a compensation request associated with the purchase order, associate the compensation request with the purchase order, generate a message containing information from the compensation request, receive a message indicating that the compensation request is approved, and generate a second message containing information from the compensation request.

56. A method for managing contract labor activities, comprising:
storing purchase orders for contract labor requests;
receiving a contract labor request;
receiving a list of vendors associated with the contract labor request;
5 associating the list with the contract labor request;
generating a message for the associated vendors regarding the contract labor
request;
receiving an inquiry regarding the contract labor request from one of the
vendors;
10 generating a message containing information in the contract labor request;
receiving information indicating that a candidate has been selected for hire;
generating a message containing a purchase order for the services of the
selected candidate;
receiving a compensation request associated with the purchase order;
15 associating the compensation request with the purchase order;
generating a message containing information from the compensation request;
receiving a message indicating that the compensation request is approved; and
generating a second message containing information from the compensation
request.
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